BRAVEHEARTS

HAKKA AND BUKKA

In 1310, the armies of Delhi were attacking the Deccan plateau, ransacking and plundering the prosperous temple towns of the South.

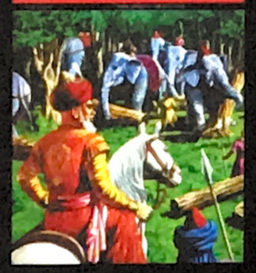
Two brothers, Hakka and Bukka, fought valiantly against the invaders.

Despite being defeated repeatedly they continued to fight, building a skilled armed force of their own. In this, they were helped by the powerful sage, Vidyaranya. With the support of the local people, Hakka and Bukka set up the city of Vijayanagar and Hakka became its first king, Harihara Raya. Their descendants ruled over a vast and powerful kingdom, extending from the west coast to the east, an empire that held sway for almost 300 years.

OTHER ACK BRAVEHEARTS:

BABUR

BALBAN



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HAKKA AND BUKKA

FOUNDERS OF THE VIJAYNAGAR EMPIRE

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HAKKA AND BUKKA

IT WAS THE YEAR 1310. MALIK KAFUR, LEADING THE DELHI SULTAN'S * ARMY, BESIEGED WARANGAL FORT.

INSIDE THE FORT —

OUR ARMY'S MORALE IS STILL HIGH, ISN'T IT ?

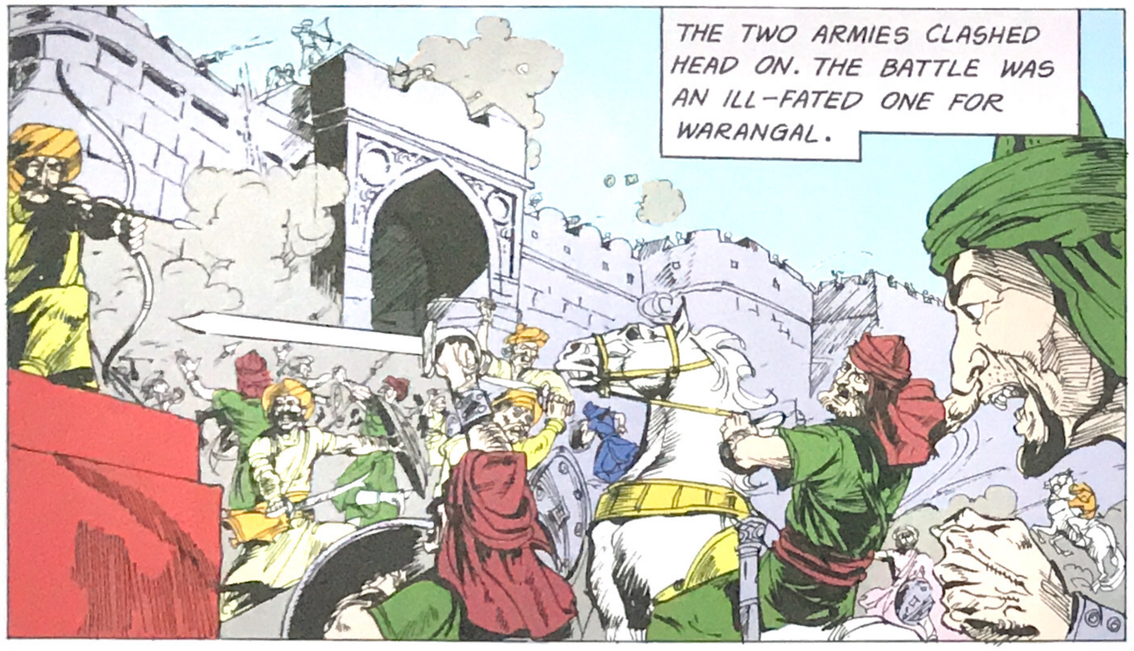
YES, YOUR MAJESTY. BUT OUR SUPPLIES ARE LOW. AND MALIK KAFUR IS PRESSING HARD.

KING PRATAPA RUDRA OF WARANGAL WAS NOT ONE TO GIVE UP EASILY.

ATTACK IS THE BEST FORM OF DEFENCE. ESPECIALLY WHEN WE HAVE LITTLE CHOICE.

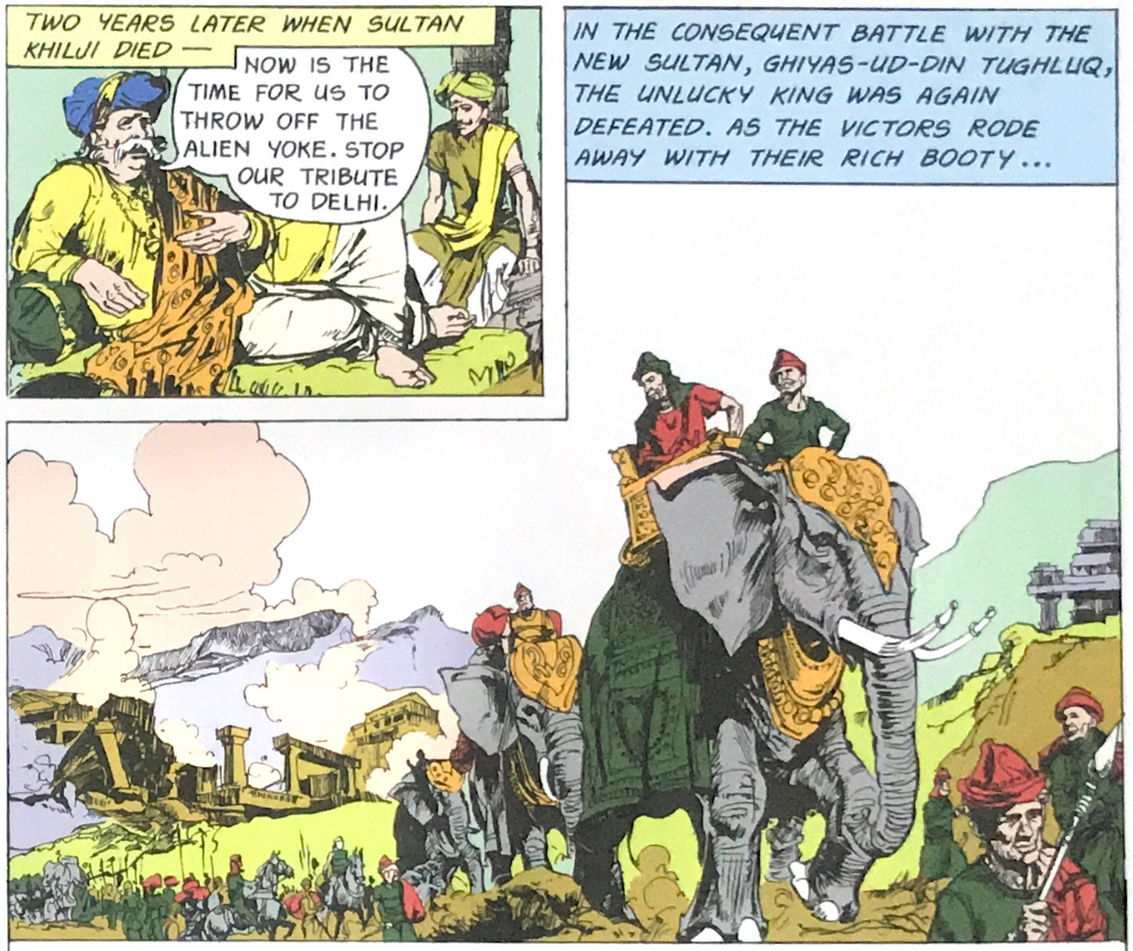
* ALA-UD-DIN KHIL JI

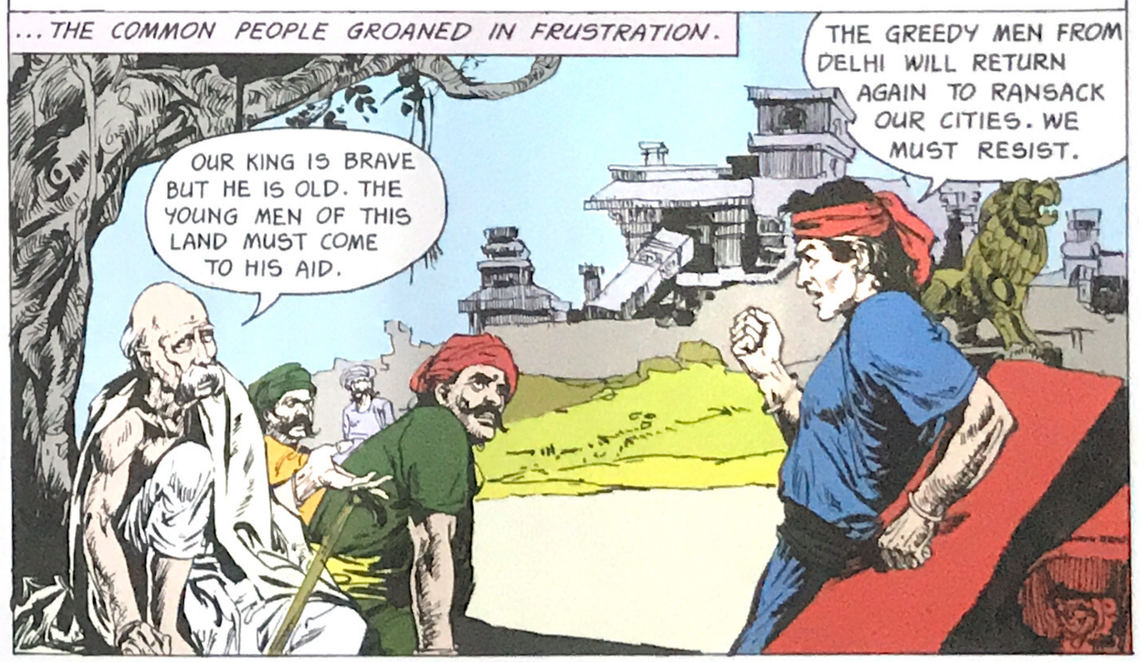
AT MALIK KAFUR'S CAMP —
I AM SICK OF THIS LONG-DRAWN-OUT SIEGE. MOUNT AN ALL-OUT ATTACK!

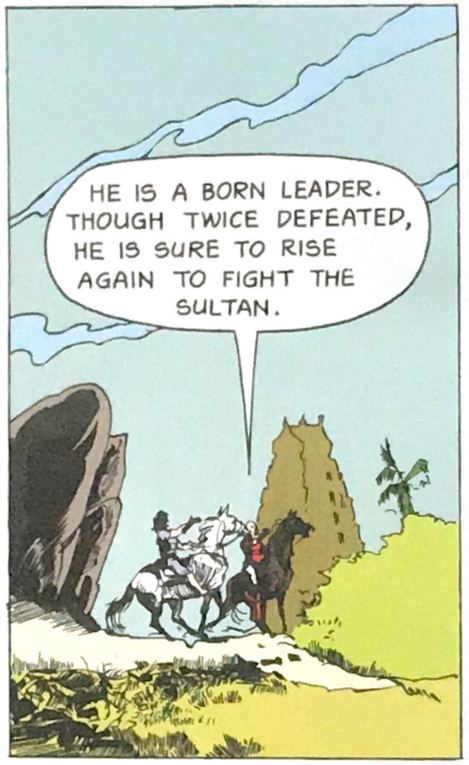

THE TWO ARMIES CLASHED HEAD ON. THE BATTLE WAS AN ILL-FATED ONE FOR WARANGAL.

AS AN ACT OF SURRENDER, PRATAPA RUDRA WAS FORCED INTO SENDING A GOLD IMAGE OF HIMSELF WITH A GOLD CHAIN AROUND THE NECK TO MALIK KAFUR.
I MUST HASTEN TO DELHI TO INFORM THE SULTAN THAT I HAVE OPENED THE ROAD FOR THE CONQUEST OF THE SOUTH.

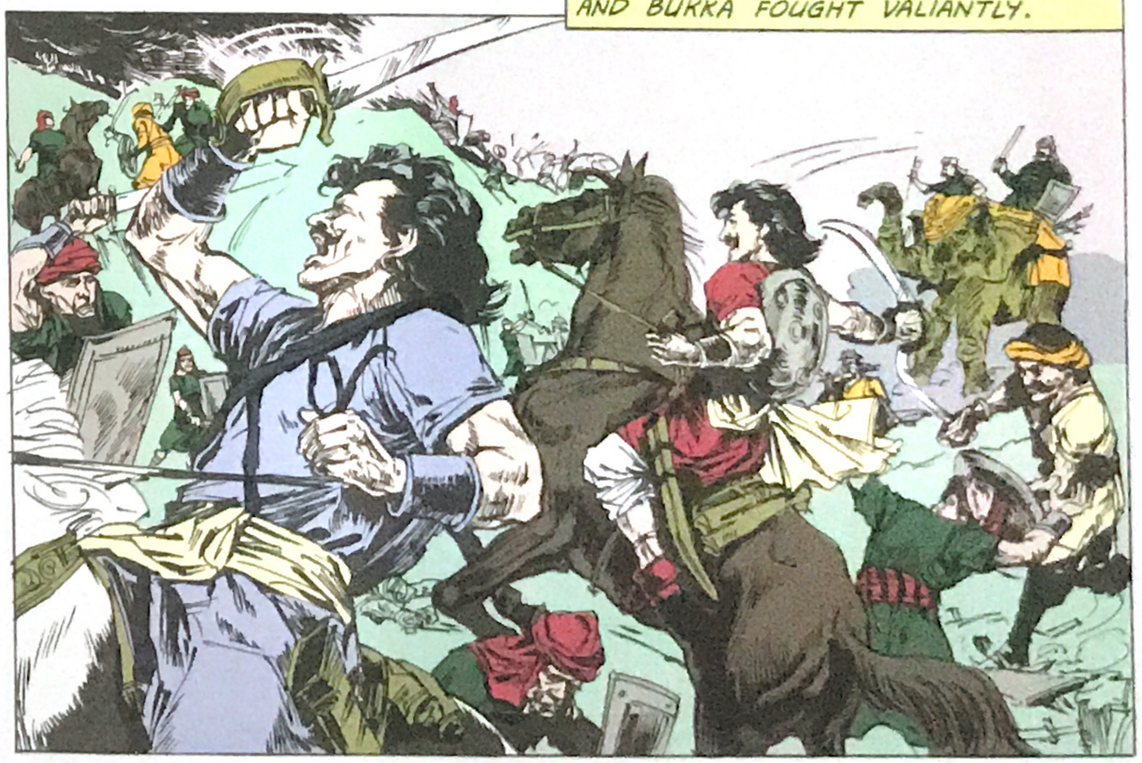
TWO YEARS LATER WHEN SULTAN KHILJI DIED —
NOW IS THE TIME FOR US TO THROW OFF THE ALIEN YOKE. STOP OUR TRIBUTE TO DELHI.


IN THE CONSEQUENT BATTLE WITH THE NEW SULTAN, GHIYAS-UD-DIN TUGHLUQ, THE UNLUCKY KING WAS AGAIN DEFEATED. AS THE VICTORS RODE AWAY WITH THEIR RICH BOOTY...

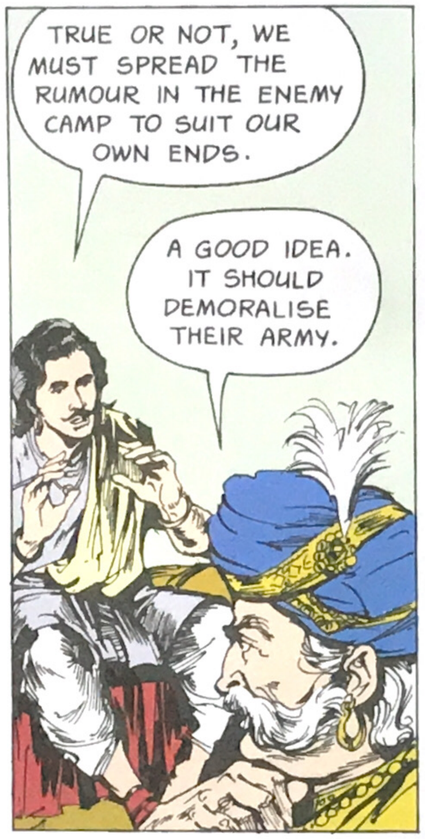

...THE COMMON PEOPLE GROANED IN FRUSTRATION.
OUR KING IS BRAVE BUT HE IS OLD. THE YOUNG MEN OF THIS LAND MUST COME TO HIS AID.
THE GREEDY MEN FROM DELHI WILL RETURN AGAIN TO RANSACK OUR CITIES. WE MUST RESIST.

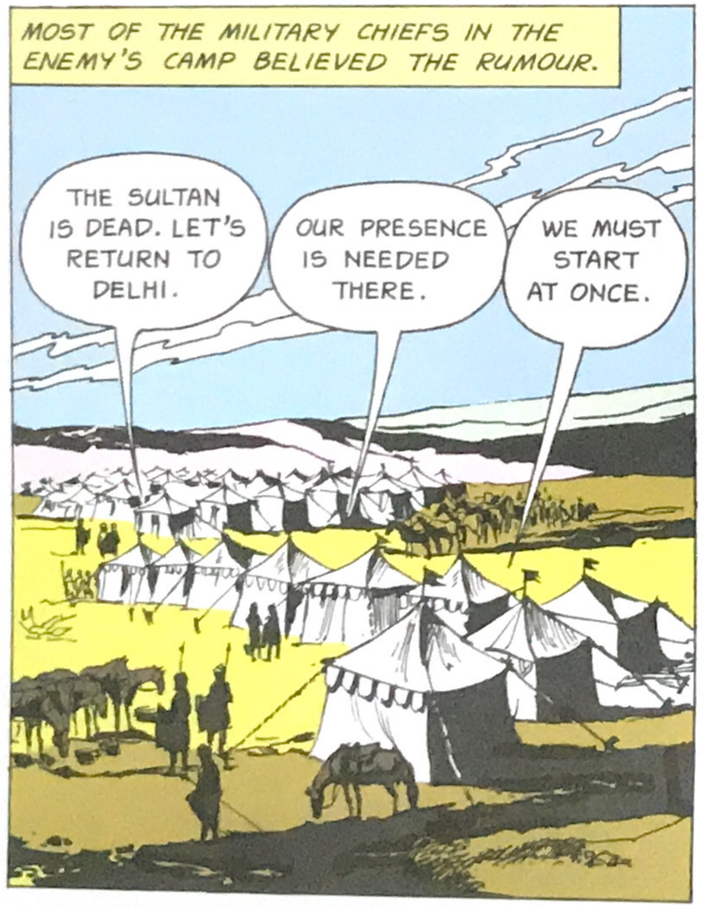


* NOW KNOWN AS HAMPI, IN MODERN KARNATAKA

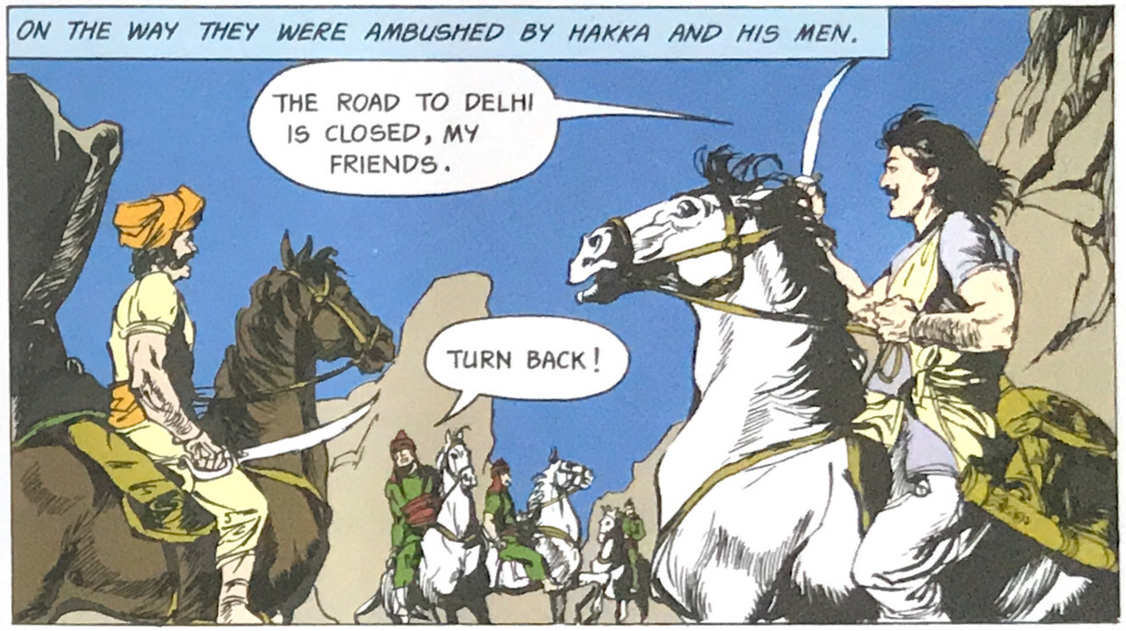


THAT NIGHT —
YOUR MAJESTY, THERE IS A RUMOUR THAT SULTAN GHIYAS-UD-DIN IS DEAD.
IT CAN'T BE TRUE.


TRUE OR NOT, WE MUST SPREAD THE RUMOUR IN THE ENEMY CAMP TO SUIT OUR OWN ENDS.
A GOOD IDEA. IT SHOULD DEMORALISE THEIR ARMY.


MOST OF THE MILITARY CHIEFS IN THE ENEMY'S CAMP BELIEVED THE RUMOUR.
THE SULTAN IS DEAD. LET'S RETURN TO DELHI.
OUR PRESENCE IS NEEDED THERE.
WE MUST START AT ONCE.

IN THE DEAD OF NIGHT, WITHOUT INFORMING THEIR COMMANDER, MOST OF THE CHIEFS LEFT WITH THEIR MEN FOR DELHI.


ON THE WAY THEY WERE AMBUSHED BY HAKKA AND HIS MEN.
THE ROAD TO DELHI IS CLOSED, MY FRIENDS.
TURN BACK!

THEY'RE RUNNING AWAY.
DON'T WORRY. THEY WILL BE WELL LOOKED AFTER.

IT'S A DEAD END.
WE ARE TRAPPED.
CAUGHT BETWEEN THE TWO ARMIES OF HAKKA AND BUKKA, THE ENEMY WAS BUTCHERED.

PRATAPA RUDRA WAS JUBILANT.

LET'S CELEBRATE OUR GREAT VICTORY.

NOT YET, YOUR MAJESTY. DANGER STILL LURKS.

TWO YEARS LATER—

COME ON HAKKA, ENJOY YOURSELF. WE HAVE DRIVEN THEM AWAY ONCE AND FOR ALL.

YES. BUT THOSE WHO GUARD FREEDOM MUST ALWAYS BE ON THE ALERT, MY LORD.

YOUR MAJESTY, THE SULTAN'S ARMY IS AGAIN ON THE MARCH. ANY TIME NOW WE WILL BE ATTACKED.

SOUND THE ALARM. WE'LL FORESTALL THEM!

AS PRATAPA RUDRA SALLIED FORTH MAJESTICALLY —

THIS WILL BE THE DECISIVE BATTLE, MY BRAVE LADS. ONWARD TO FACE THE ENEMY RANKS!

HAKKA WAS WORRIED.

THE KING HAS PENETRATED TOO DEEP INTO THE ENEMY LINES, BUKKA.

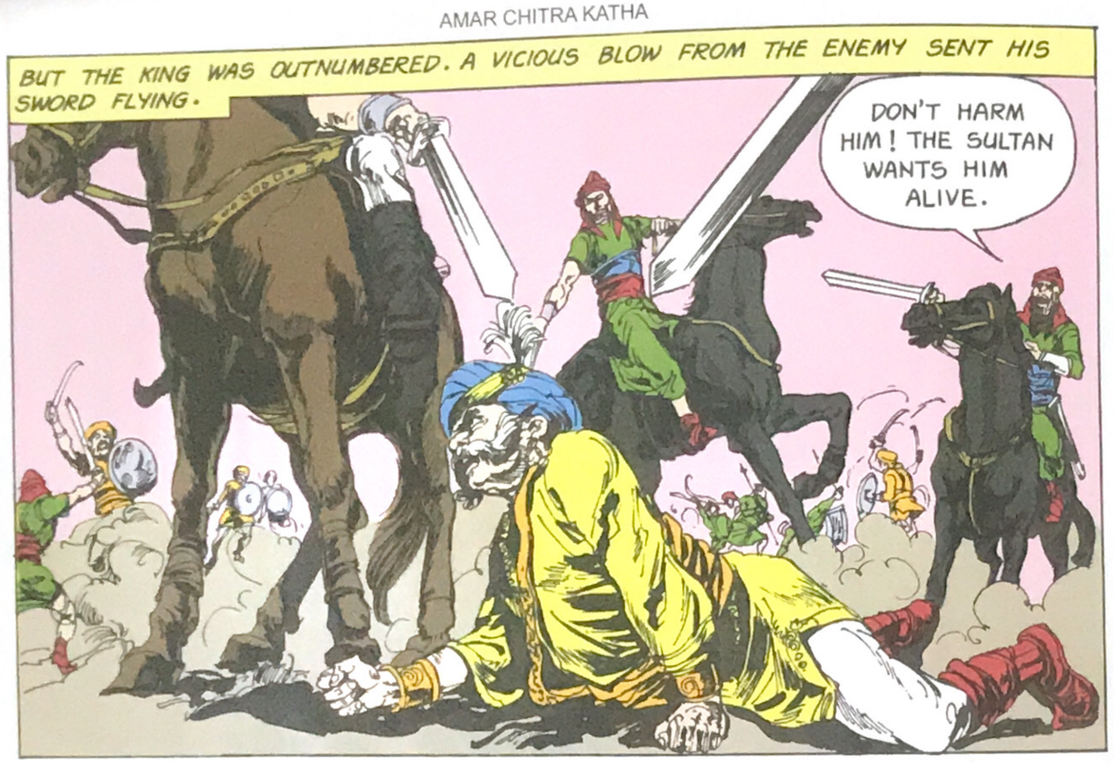
RUSH TO HIS SIDE, HAKKA. I'LL TAKE CARE OF THIS END.

STRUCK BY AN ARROW, PRATAPA RUDRA'S HORSE REELED.

THE KING! KILL HIM.

THOUGH UNHORSED, THE KING HELD THE ENEMY SOLDIERS AT BAY.

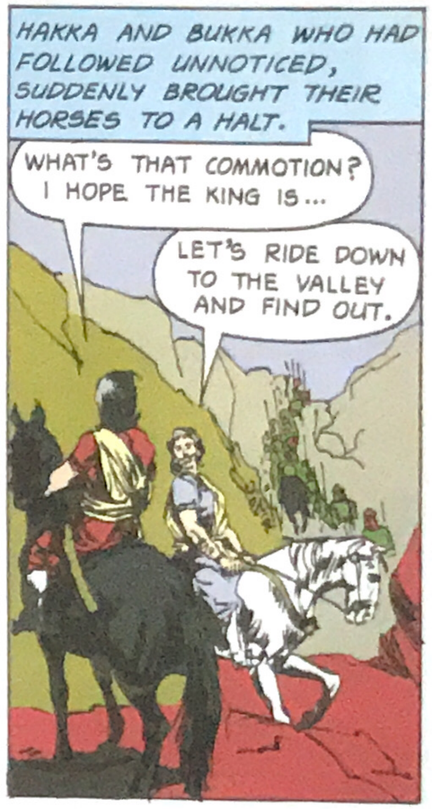
COME ON, GET ME IF YOU CAN.

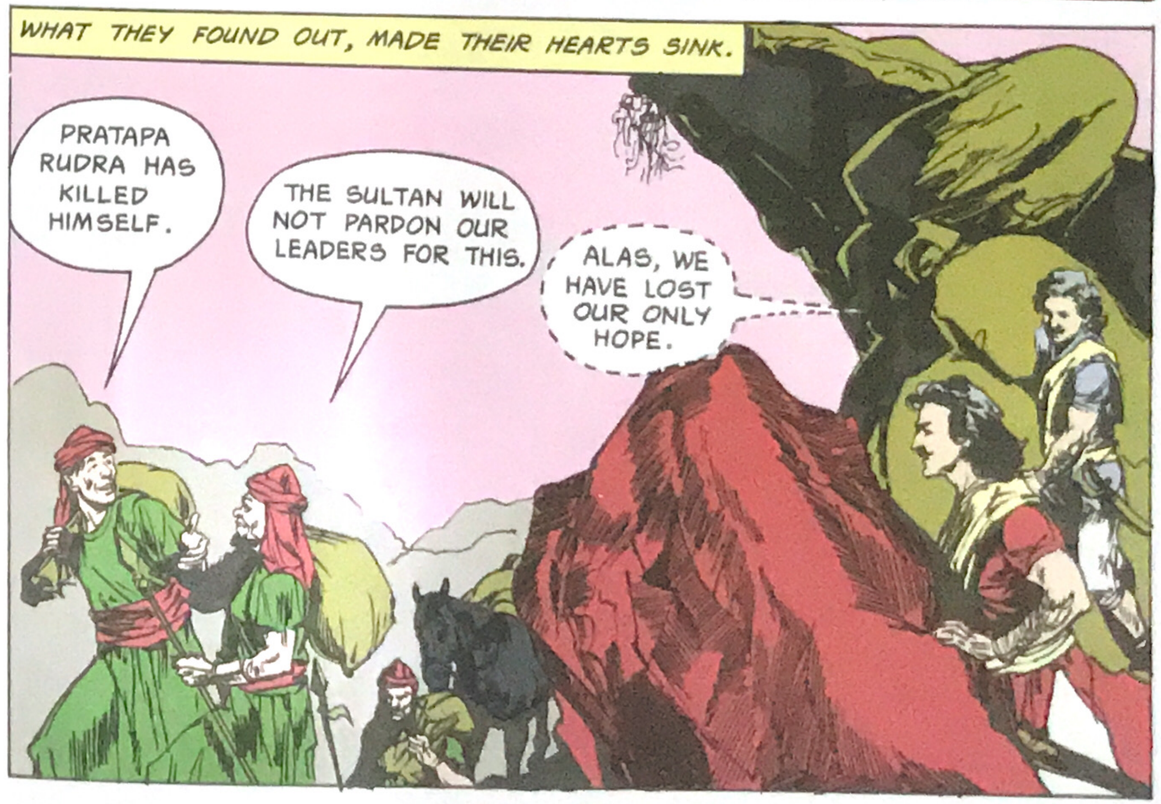

BUT THE KING WAS OUTNUMBERED. A VICIOUS BLOW FROM THE ENEMY SENT HIS SWORD FLYING.
DON'T HARM HIM! THE SULTAN WANTS HIM ALIVE.

THE SOLDIERS OF WARANGAL RAN HELTER-SKELTER.
THE KING HAS BEEN CAPTURED.
RUN!

HAKKA TRIED IN VAIN TO INSTIL COURAGE INTO THE HEARTS OF THE FLEEING SOLDIERS.
RALLY ROUND AND FIGHT.
WHAT FOR? THE KING HAS FALLEN!
LET'S SAVE OUR LIVES.

LATER, AS PRATAPA RUDRA WAS BEING TAKEN TO DELHI —
THERE IS ONLY ONE WAY BY WHICH I CAN SAVE MY HONOUR NOW SHOULD I...?


HAKKA AND BUKKA WHO HAD FOLLOWED UNNOTICED, SUDDENLY BROUGHT THEIR HORSES TO A HALT.
WHAT'S THAT COMMOTION? I HOPE THE KING IS...
LET'S RIDE DOWN TO THE VALLEY AND FIND OUT.

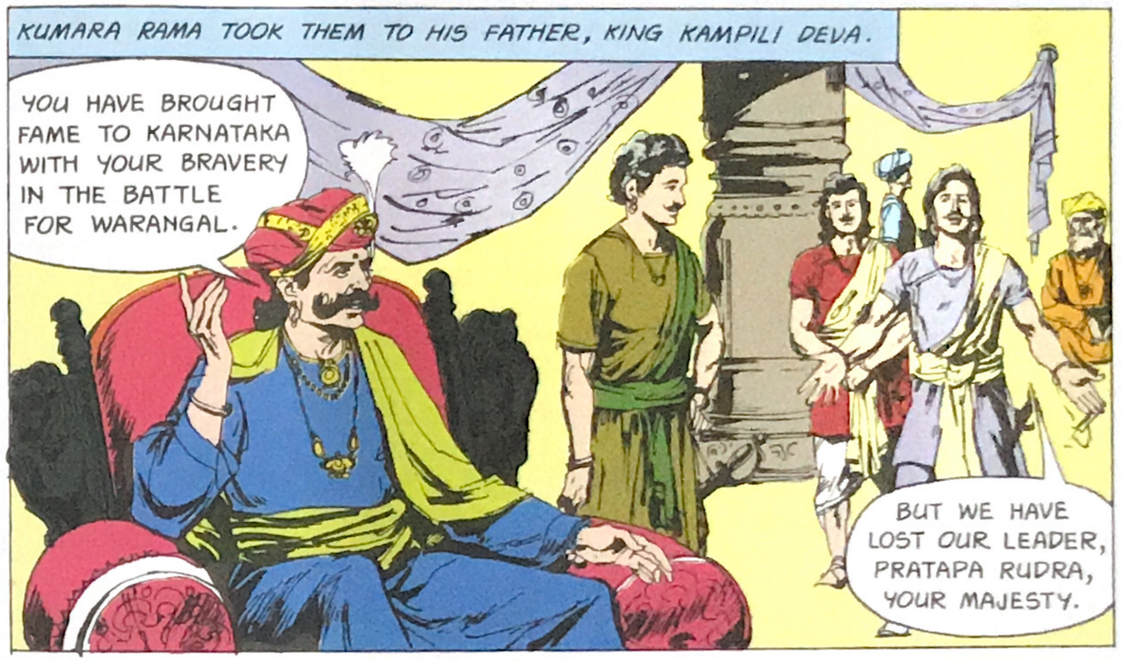

WHAT THEY FOUND OUT, MADE THEIR HEARTS SINK.
PRATAPA RUDRA HAS KILLED HIMSELF.
THE SULTAN WILL NOT PARDON OUR LEADERS FOR THIS.
ALAS, WE HAVE LOST OUR ONLY HOPE.

THE TWO BROTHERS WERE DEJECTED AS THEY RODE SOUTHWARDS.
BUKKA, ALL OUR EFFORTS HAVE BEEN IN VAIN.
NO, BROTHER. LET'S NOT DESPAIR. OUR MISSION STILL REMAINS TO BE FULFILLED.

SUDDENLY —
HAKKA, WATCH OUT!

AS THE TIGER SANK TO THE GROUND, THEY WERE JOINED BY A BAND OF STRANGERS.
YOUNG MAN, I SPOTTED THIS TIGER AND STALKED IT FROM ITS LAIR...
...BUT I FINISHED IT. WHO ARE YOU?

I AM KUMARA RAMA, PRINCE OF KAMPILI.
WE ARE HAKKA AND BUKKA.


KUMARA RAMA TOOK THEM TO HIS FATHER, KING KAMPILI DEVA.
YOU HAVE BROUGHT FAME TO KARNATAKA WITH YOUR BRAVERY IN THE BATTLE FOR WARANGAL.
BUT WE HAVE LOST OUR LEADER, PRATAPA RUDRA, YOUR MAJESTY.

LET THAT NOT WORRY YOU. THE PEOPLE OF KAMPILI STAND BY PRATAPA RUDRA'S IDEALS.
TREAT KAMPILI AS YOUR HOME AND CONTINUE WITH YOUR MISSION.

HAKKA AND BUKKA WERE GOOD HUNTSMEN. KUMARA RAMA OFTEN JOINED THEM WHEN THEY RODE OUT. ONE DAY —
I HAVE SOME NEWS FOR YOU. GHIYAS-UD-DIN IS DEAD. HIS SON, MUHAMMAD-BIN-TUGHLUQ IS NOW THE SULTAN.
OH! WE MUST BE ALERT. HE IS AN AMBITIOUS MAN.

A FEW DAYS LATER —

LOOK AT THAT CLOUD OF DUST!

COULD IT BE TUGHLUQ'S ARMY? I AM ITCHING FOR A GOOD FIGHT.

BUT IT WAS NOT TUGHLUQ'S ARMY. IT WAS BAHA-UD-DIN, TUGHLUQ'S NEPHEW, AND HIS RETINUE.

I HAVE INCURRED THE WRATH OF THE SULTAN. I'M FLEEING FROM HIM. HE'LL PUT ME TO DEATH IF I AM CAUGHT.

I'LL TAKE YOU TO OUR KING. HE IS MERCIFUL.

CALM YOURSELF, BAHA-UD-DIN. NO HARM COMES TO THOSE WHO SEEK REFUGE IN KAMPILI.

YOUR KINDNESS TO ME — YOUR ERSTWHILE ENEMY — IS MOST TOUCHING.

BEFORE LONG BAHA-UD-DIN WAS TRACKED DOWN TO KAMPILI BY TUGHLUQ'S MEN. THEY LAID SIEGE TO THE FORT.

NOW IS THE TIME TO AVENGE THE DEATH OF KING PRATAPA RUDRA.

BEFORE THE BATTLE BEGAN —

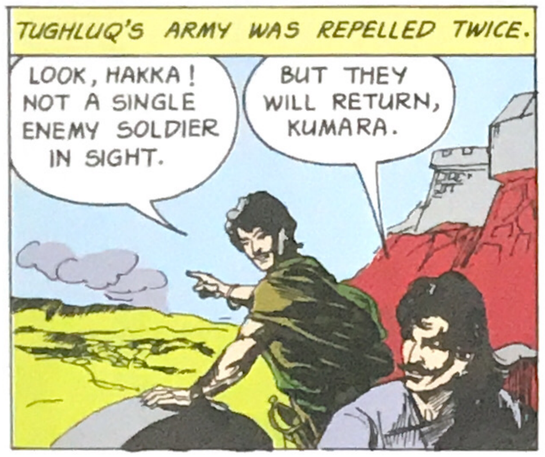
I HAVE COME ON A MISSION OF PEACE. TAKE ME TO YOUR KING.

LET HIM PASS.

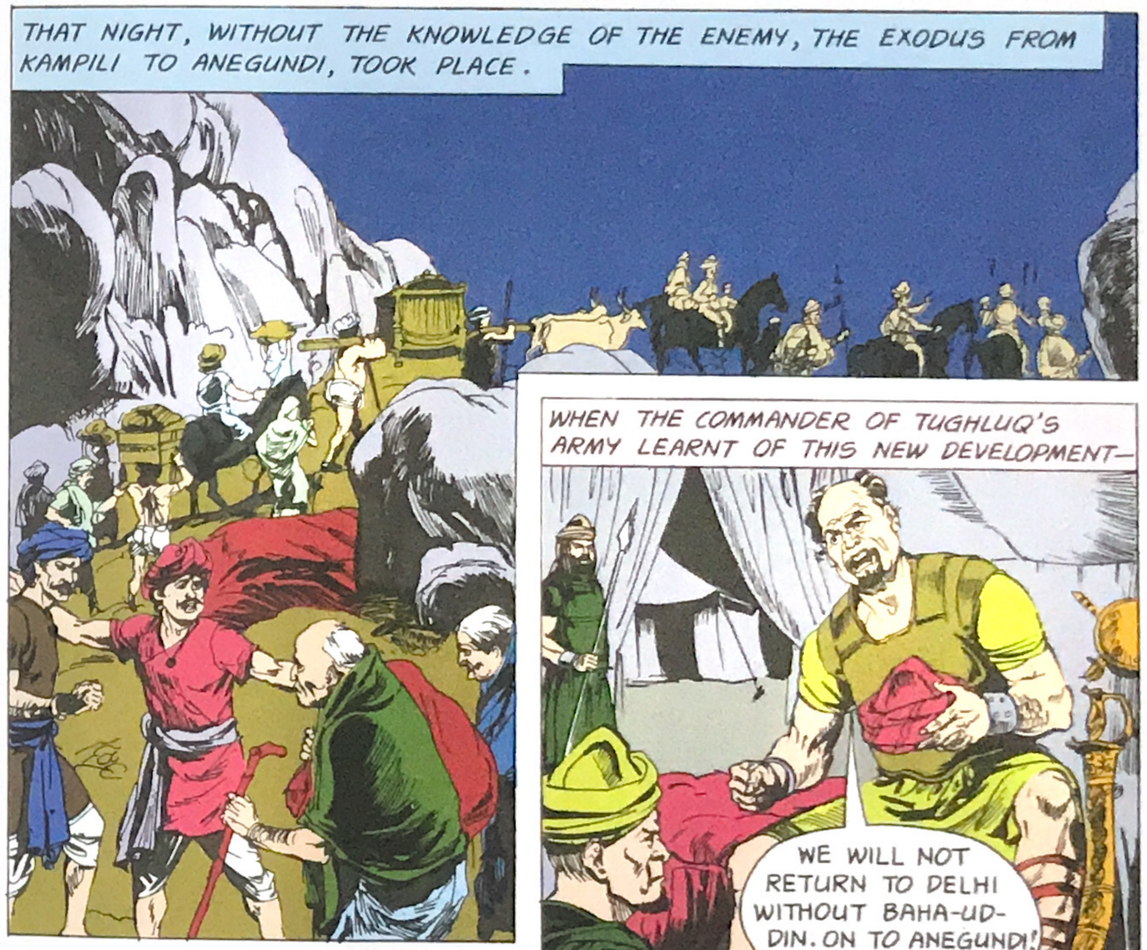
WE WISH TO AVOID UNNECESSARY BLOODSHED. GIVE US BAHA-UD-DIN AND WE'LL GO BACK.

WE'D RATHER DIE THAN BETRAY THOSE WHO HAVE SOUGHT REFUGE.

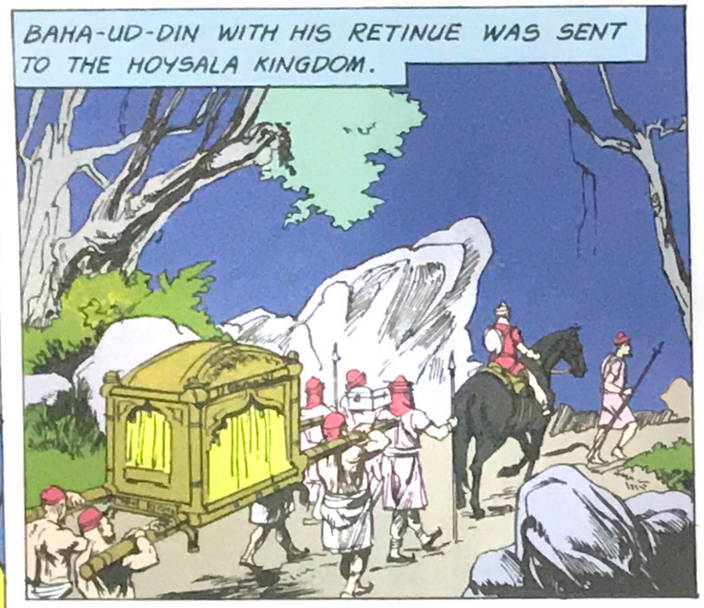
THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED WAS FIERCE.



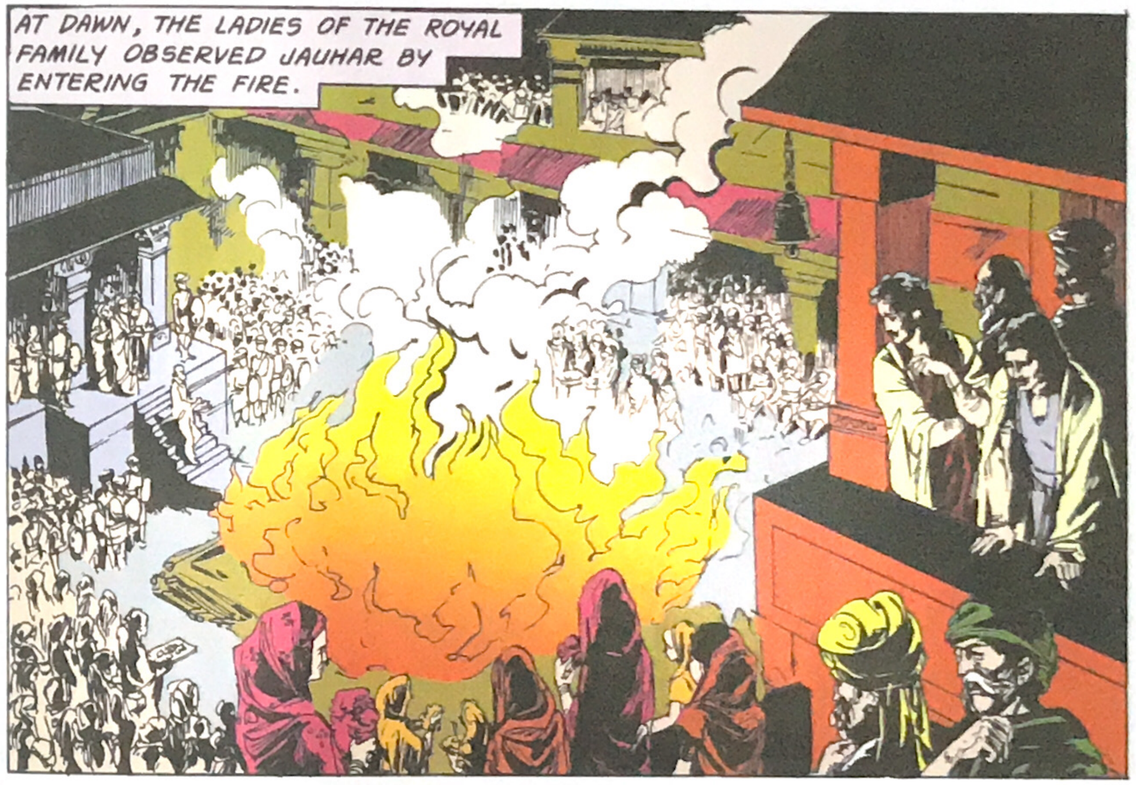
* ON THE BANK OF THE RIVER TUNGABHADRA

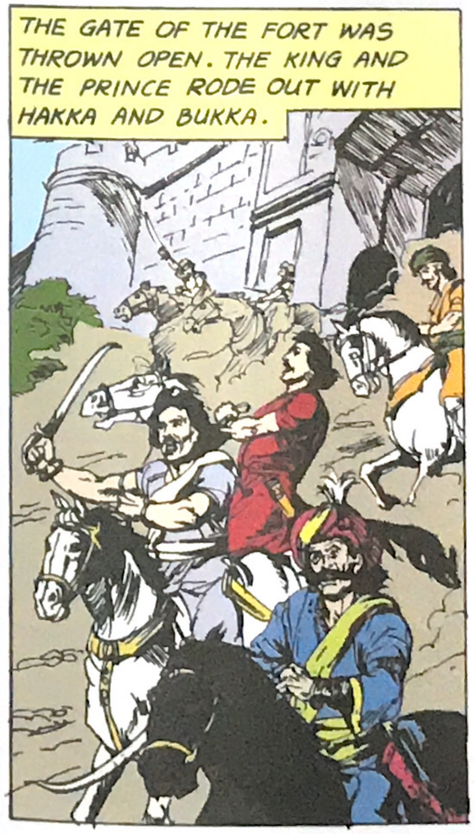


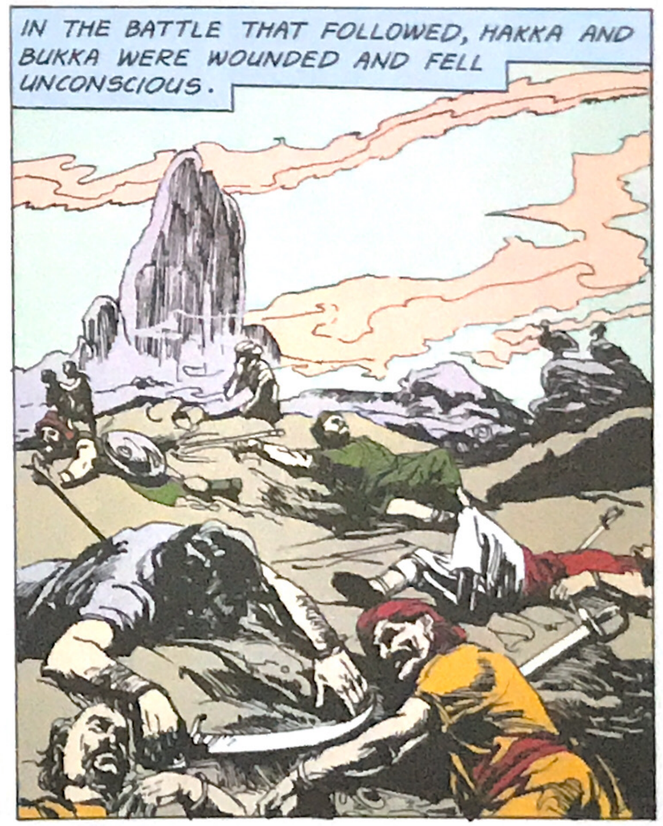
THAT NIGHT —
FATHER, WE ARE NOT SURE WHETHER WE WILL WIN THIS TIME.
THEN BAHA-UD-DIN SHOULD BE SENT AWAY TO A SAFE PLACE.


BAHA-UD-DIN WITH HIS RETINUE WAS SENT TO THE HOYSALA KINGDOM.

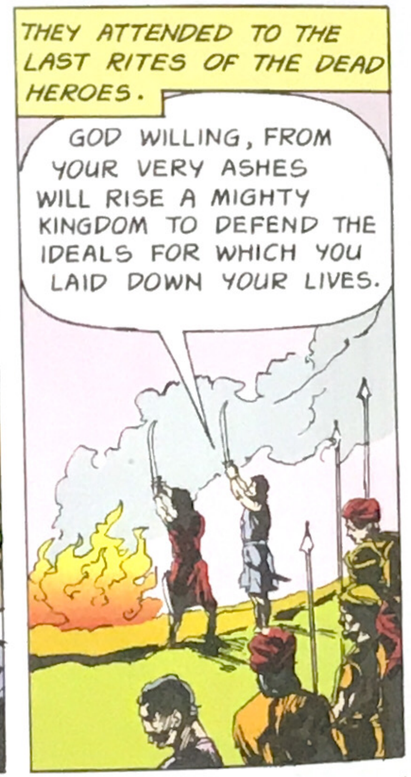
THE NEXT DAY, BOTH THE SIDES LOST HEAVILY IN THE BATTLE.
THEY CAN AFFORD TO LOSE MEN. WE CAN'T.
FATHER, WE CAN HOLD ON FOR ONE MORE DAY. THAT'S ALL.


AT DAWN, THE LADIES OF THE ROYAL FAMILY OBSERVED JAUHAR BY ENTERING THE FIRE.


THE GATE OF THE FORT WAS THROWN OPEN. THE KING AND THE PRINCE RODE OUT WITH HAKKA AND BUKKA.

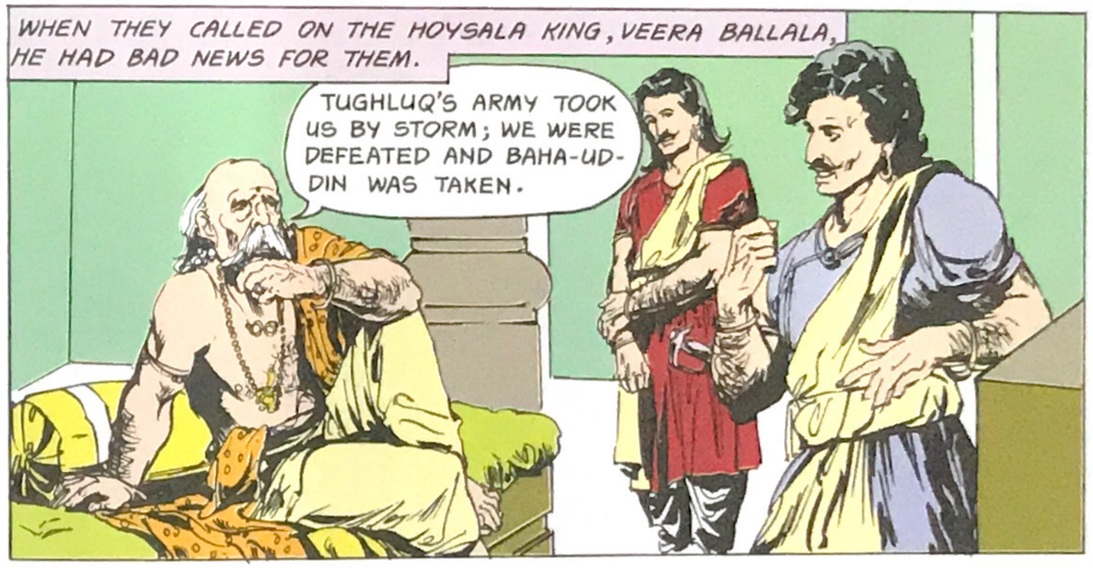

IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, HAKKA AND BUKKA WERE WOUNDED AND FELL UNCONSCIOUS.

WHEN THEY REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS THEY FOUND THE BATTLEFIELD LITTERED WITH CORPSES.
THE KING AND THE PRINCE HAVE FALLEN!
GOD, WHY HAVE YOU SPARED OUR LIVES?

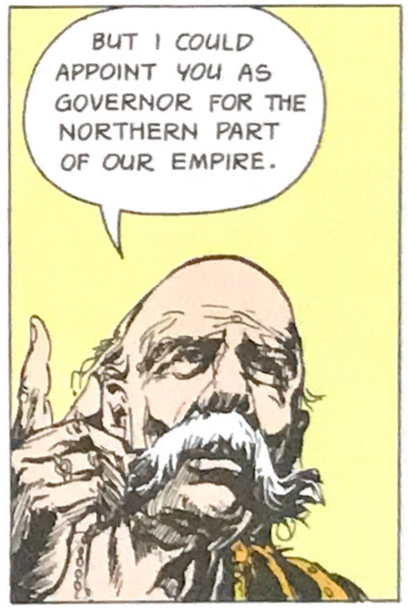

THEY ATTENDED TO THE LAST RITES OF THE DEAD HEROES.
GOD WILLING, FROM YOUR VERY ASHES WILL RISE A MIGHTY KINGDOM TO DEFEND THE IDEALS FOR WHICH YOU LAID DOWN YOUR LIVES.

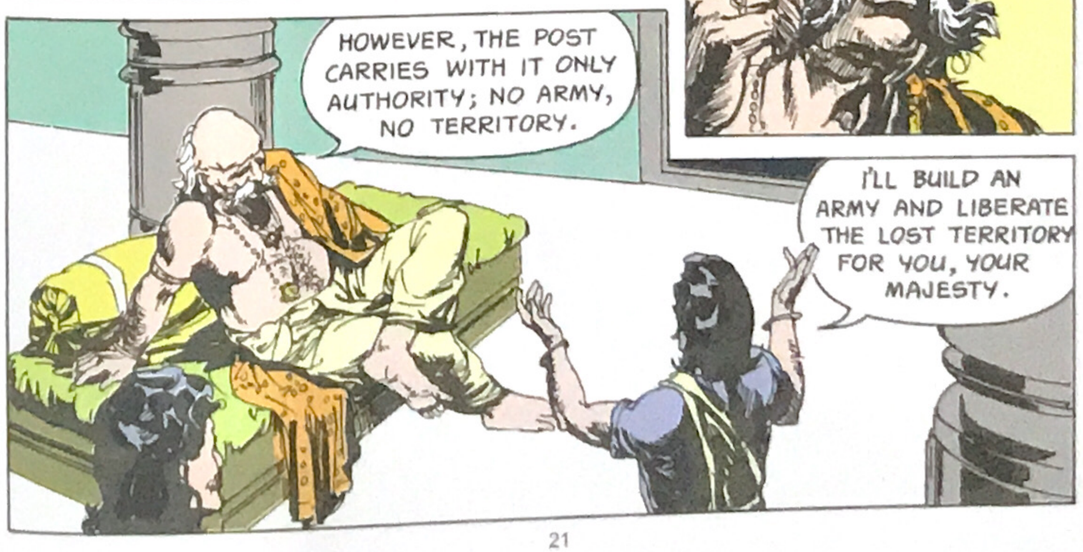
BROTHER, WHERE SHALL WE GO NOW?
WE SHOULD FIRST FIND OUT WHETHER BAHA-UD-DIN IS SAFE.

THE TWO BROTHERS WENT ON FOOT TO THE HOYSALA CAPITAL.


WHEN THEY CALLED ON THE HOYSALA KING, VEERA BALLALA, HE HAD BAD NEWS FOR THEM.
TUGHLUQ'S ARMY TOOK US BY STORM; WE WERE DEFEATED AND BAHA-UD-DIN WAS TAKEN.

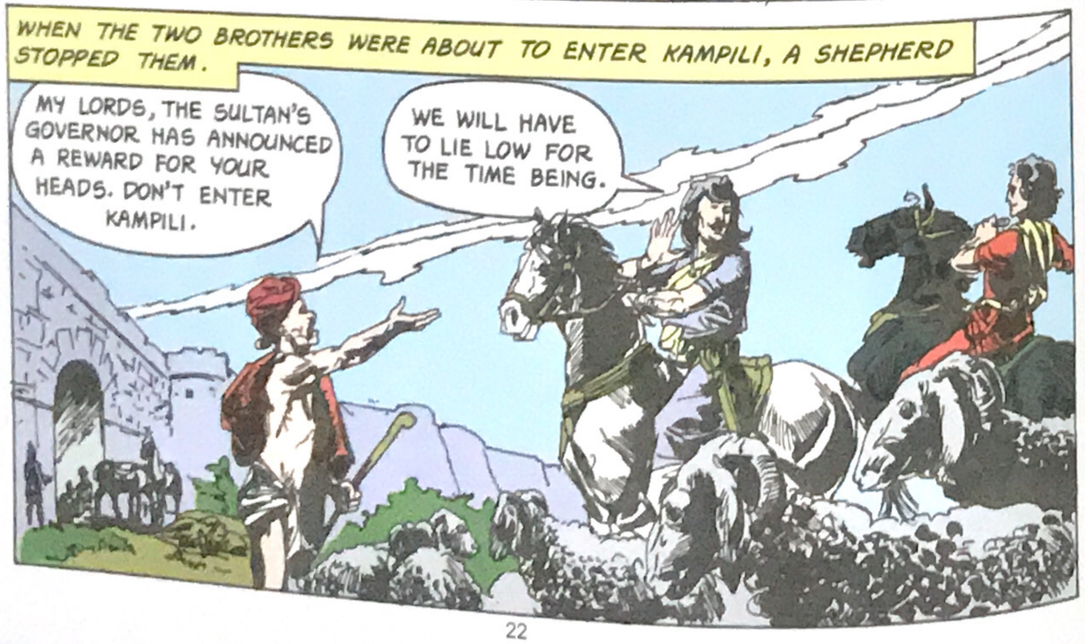
WE MUST REGAIN THE LOST TERRITORY, YOUR MAJESTY.
I AM SORRY, HAKKA, I DON'T HAVE MEN TO SPARE.

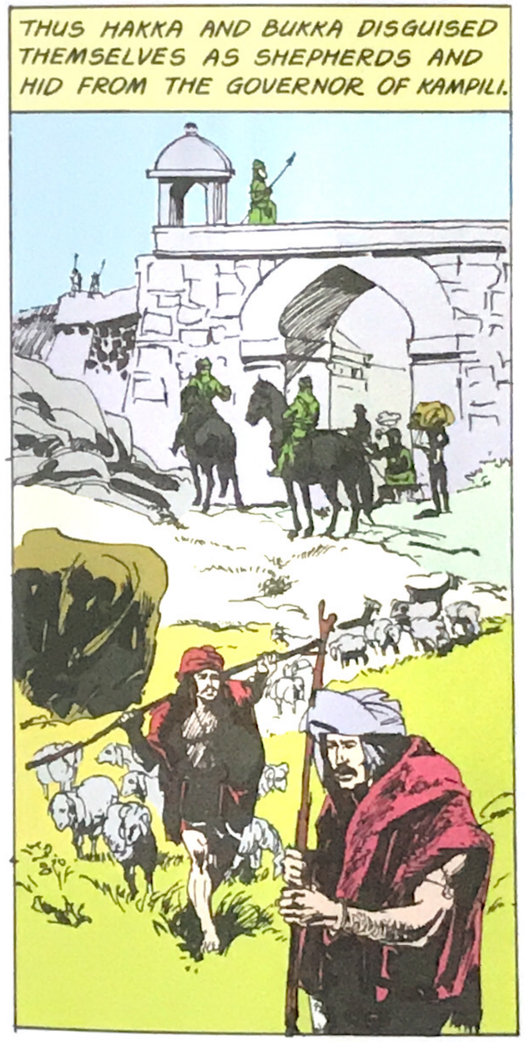

BUT I COULD APPOINT YOU AS GOVERNOR FOR THE NORTHERN PART OF OUR EMPIRE.

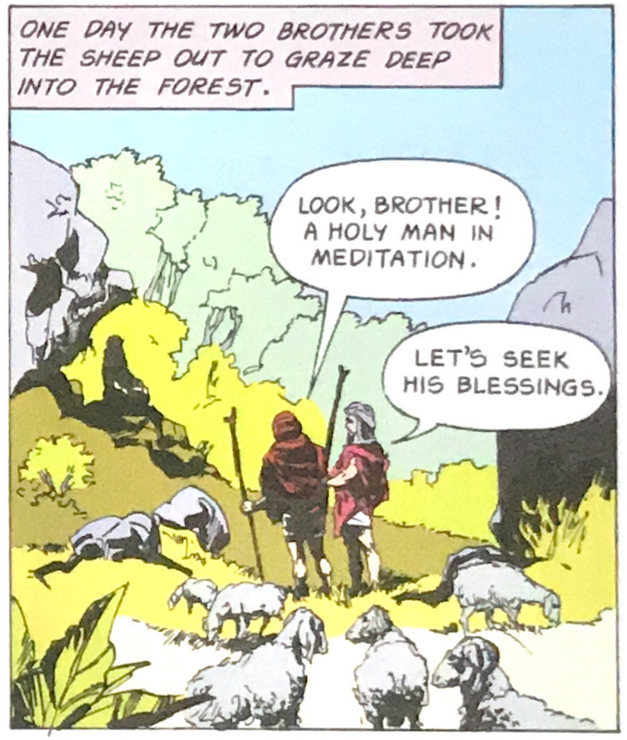

HOWEVER, THE POST CARRIES WITH IT ONLY AUTHORITY; NO ARMY, NO TERRITORY.
I'LL BUILD AN ARMY AND LIBERATE THE LOST TERRITORY FOR YOU, YOUR MAJESTY.

YOU WERE BEATEN AT WARANGAL. YOU WERE BEATEN AGAIN AT KAMPILI. YET YOU TALK OF VICTORY. WHAT KEEPS YOU GOING, HAKKA?
WHAT ELSE, EXCEPT LOVE FOR MY MOTHERLAND, YOUR MAJESTY?

AS HAKKA AND BUKKA LEFT FOR KAMPILI —
O GOD! HELP THEM IN THEIR MISSION.


WHEN THE TWO BROTHERS WERE ABOUT TO ENTER KAMPILI, A SHEPHERD STOPPED THEM.
MY LORDS, THE SULTAN'S GOVERNOR HAS ANNOUNCED A REWARD FOR YOUR HEADS. DON'T ENTER KAMPILI.
WE WILL HAVE TO LIE LOW FOR THE TIME BEING.


THUS HAKKA AND BUKKA DISGUISED THEMSELVES AS SHEPHERDS AND HID FROM THE GOVERNOR OF KAMPILI.


ONE DAY THE TWO BROTHERS TOOK THE SHEEP OUT TO GRAZE DEEP INTO THE FOREST.
LOOK, BROTHER! A HOLY MAN IN MEDITATION.
LET'S SEEK HIS BLESSINGS.

IT WAS SAGE VIDYARANYA. THE TWO PATIENTLY WAITED FOR HIM TO OPEN HIS EYES.

WHEN THE SAGE AT LAST DID SO, THE BROTHERS FELL AT HIS FEET.

BLESS US, HOLY ONE. WE ARE HAKKA AND BUKKA.

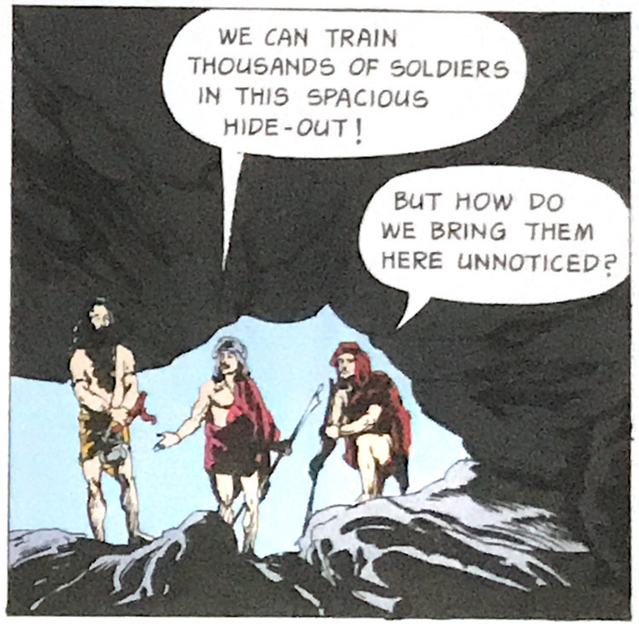
HAKKA AND BUKKA, THE DAUNTLESS BROTHERS? ARISE, BRAVE ONES.

I HAVE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU. THE DESOLATE STATE OF MY NATIVE LAND MAKES ME VERY SAD. I NEED MEN OF VISION AND VALOUR.

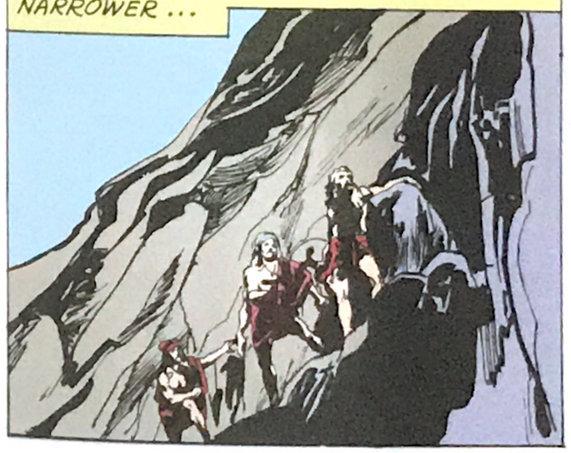
REMEMBER, GOD HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES.

HOLY ONE, WE ARE FINDING IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO RAISE AN ARMY WITHOUT ATTRACTING THE ATTENTION OF TUGHLUQ'S MEN.

I THINK I CAN HELP YOU THERE. COME WITH ME.



VIDYARANYA LED THEM STILL FARTHER WHERE THE CAVE BECAME INCREASINGLY NARROWER...



...AND THEY HAD TO CRAWL IN.

VIDYARANYA'S DISCOURSES STARTED ATTRACTING LARGE CROWDS.

AND THE LORD SAID: ACTION, THEN, O ARJUNA, IS THY DUTY; THE FRUIT THEREOF IS NOT THY CONCERN.

SOME OFFICIALS EYED THESE GATHERINGS WITH GROWING SUSPICION. BUT NOT MUHAMMAD KHAN, THE GOVERNOR.

THAT IS A PIOUS CROWD. LEAVE IT ALONE.

AFTER THE DISCOURSE, THE APPARENTLY HARMLESS AND PIOUS MEN...

...WERE TRAINED TO BE SOLDIERS BY HAKKA AND BUKKA.

ONE DAY —

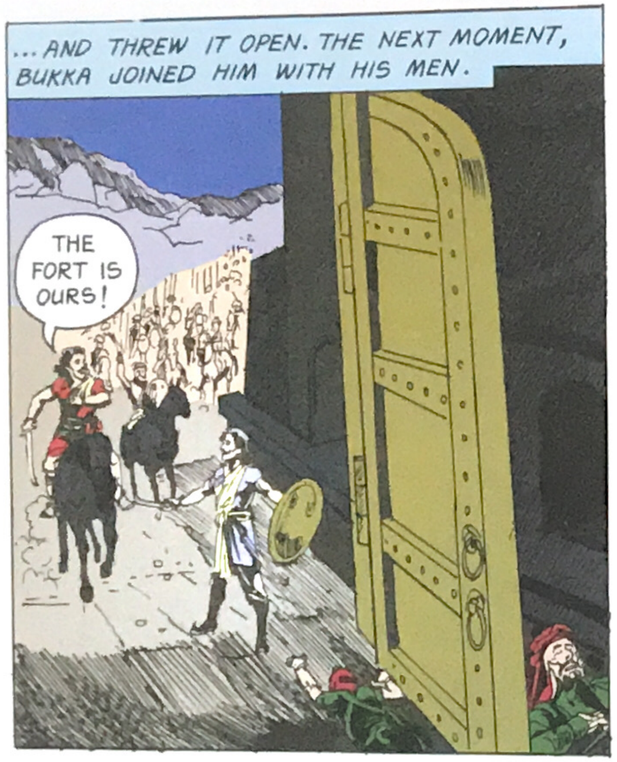
WE SEEK YOUR BLESSINGS, HOLY SAGE.

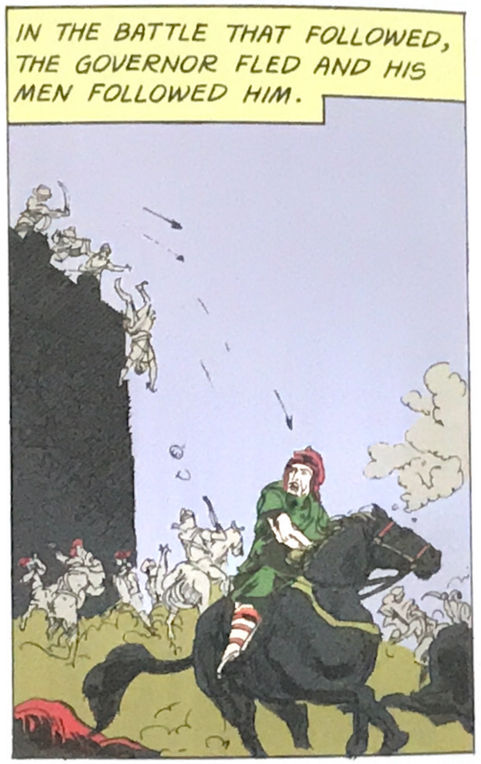
MAY VICTORY BE YOURS.

UNDER COVER OF A DARK NIGHT, HAKKA AND BUKKA RODE OUT WITH THEIR MEN.

AT ANEGUNDI, LEAVING HIS MEN OUTSIDE, HAKKA CLIMBED THE WALL OF THE FORT.

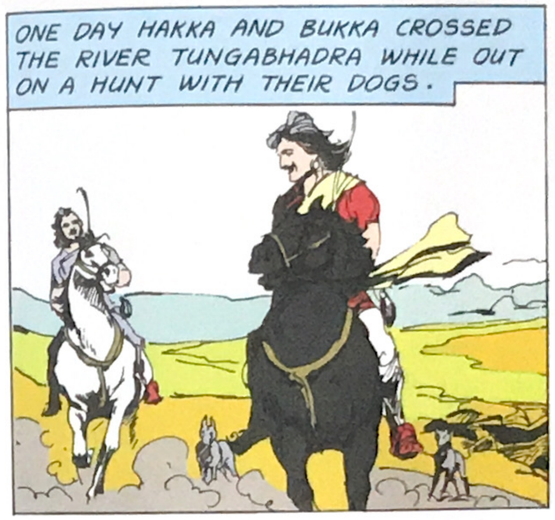
ONCE INSIDE, HE FOUGHT HIS WAY TO THE GATE...

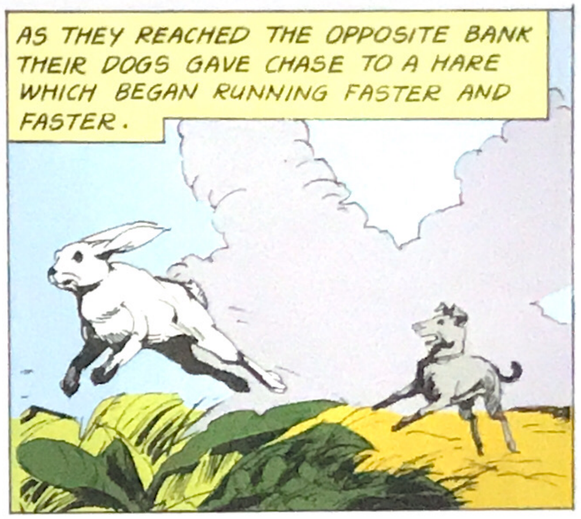

...AND THREW IT OPEN. THE NEXT MOMENT, BUKKA JOINED HIM WITH HIS MEN.
THE FORT IS OURS!


IN THE BATTLE THAT FOLLOWED, THE GOVERNOR FLED AND HIS MEN FOLLOWED HIM.

THE PEOPLE OF ANEGUNDI GAVE A ROUSING WELCOME TO HAKKA AND BUKKA.
HAKKA AND BUKKA ARE BACK!
WE ARE FREE ONCE AGAIN!

IN THE HOUR OF TRIUMPH, VIDYARANYA HAD A WORD OF CAUTION.
THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING. YOUR GOAL LIES FAR AHEAD.
IT SHALL BE REACHED WITH YOUR BLESSINGS AND THE GOOD-WILL OF OUR PEOPLE, HOLY ONE.


ONE DAY HAKKA AND BUKKA CROSSED THE RIVER TUNGABHADRA WHILE OUT ON A HUNT WITH THEIR DOGS.


AS THEY REACHED THE OPPOSITE BANK THEIR DOGS GAVE CHASE TO A HARE WHICH BEGAN RUNNING FASTER AND FASTER.

THEN ALL OF A SUDDEN, IT CAME TO A HALT AND FACED THE DOGS.
WHAT, A HARE TURNING BACK TO GIVE FIGHT TO DOGS! STRANGE!

WHEN THIS INCIDENT WAS REPORTED TO VIDYARANYA—
IT WAS THE AURA OF THAT PLACE WHICH MADE THE HARE BOLD.

BUILD A FORT HERE AND FOUND A KINGDOM.

SOON A CITY CAME UP AT THAT EXACT SPOT.

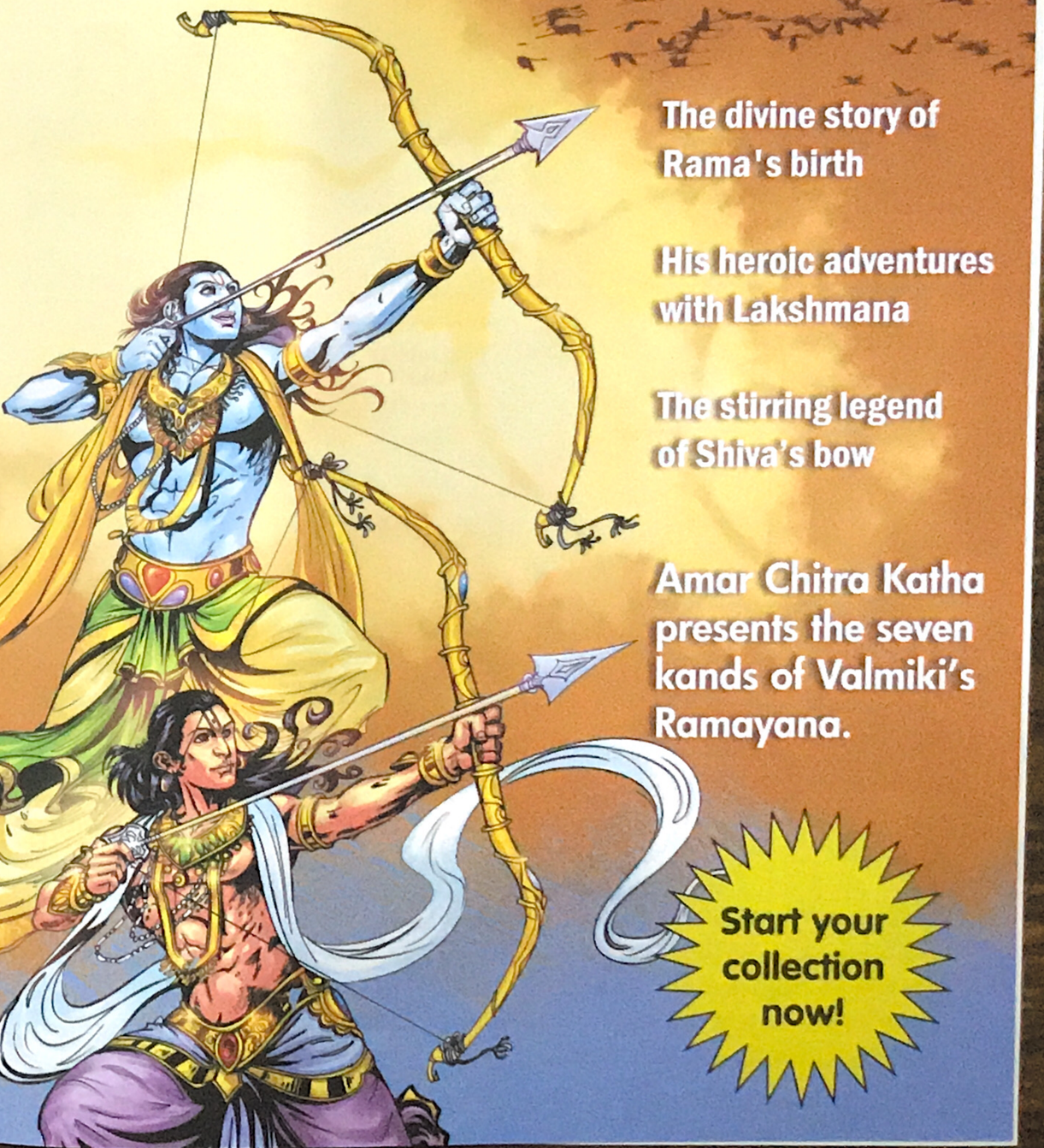
YOU ARE THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH AND INSPIRATION TO US. WE WILL CALL THE NEW CITY **VIDYANAGARA**.

DON'T NAME IT AFTER A MERE MORTAL. THIS CITY WILL HERALD VICTORY FOR THE COUNTRY. IT IS A CITY OF VICTORY. CALL IT **VIJAYANAGARA**.

ASSUMING THE NAME HARIHARA RAYA, HAKKA BECAME THE FIRST KING OF VIJAYANAGARA. THE SMALL KINGDOM EVENTUALLY ROSE TO BE A MIGHTY EMPIRE THAT FLOURISHED FOR OVER THREE HUNDRED YEARS.

BEGINNING OF AN EPIC SAGA

BALA KAND



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